



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXX Number 11

November 2006



Editorial

JUST ONE of the many things That Magazine Competition (the one that didn't-give-us-an-award we may have mentioned before) must have not noticed was our *cover illustrations*. Uncoloured and unglossy, but nevertheless quite frequently superb: original work by local artists, especially commissioned for the *Crier*.

This month we'd like to pay tribute to one of our original illustrators, Barbara Ives, whose delightful village scenes frequently featured on our covers and does so again in this issue. It has recently been mooted that the *Crier* should *do something* about publishing its valuable legacy of illustrations in their own right: suggestions welcome.

Alas, sad goodbyes to PC reporter and very first official *Crier* photographer, Frank Readhead, who resigned this month. Although our reproduction technology seldom did him justice, Frank's eye for a shot and unique talent for capturing the *body language of the moment*

(see below) have lead to hilarious scenes and stunning snaps. Many thanks to Frank, who will be a very hard act to follow. Could YOU do it? See our advert.

The first in a series extracts from the memoirs John Norris appears in this issue, where you can read about his 1959 visit from Upware following that well-known Concrete Road, which: "*cracked by the sinking fen, wandered through dead reeds and grasses containing the remains of many ancient bog oaks and machines....*". NOT A LOT CHANGED THERE THEN. Partially published in the *Crier* some years ago, these memoirs

promise to be most interesting and controversial — don't miss them!

NO-ONE expects the *Crier* to be on time these days but....**this month it is.** Apologies to a few correspondents caught napping (yes, that's **12 pages** of you), and note the change of

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gardeners are made an offer
they can't refuse

copy-date: pushed back to a more realistic 18th of the month. Don't forget, Variety Show, Christmas Marketing—see you there!

Cover Picture: *The Village in November* by **Barbara Ives** (see page 17)



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editor

Mill Hill Near Miss

Further to your editorial comments in The Crier this month, I thought I should respond as the unwilling parent involved in the near miss on Mill Hill that I believe you witnessed.

I dare say your heart missed a beat the same as mine and I felt physically sick and shaken all day afterwards. I am very aware of “what if” she had been knocked off her bike. At 40mph, regardless of blame, I know she would have been killed. Is it really going to take a death before something is done? Do parents of children catching the bus to Bottisham realise what a gauntlet their child is put through in the morning when they cross this road?

I feel so strongly about this now that I have written to the Highways Department at Cambridgeshire County Council to highlight how dangerous this road has become and how many children have to cross it every day. I was quite surprised to receive a reply today, which advises that although their department is subject to budget cuts and funding is frozen until further notice, there is a scheme called the Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement Initiative. This is a scheme aimed at improving safety and increases provisions for cycling/walking etc but has to be applied for by the local Parish Council. So I have passed on my findings to them and hope that they will look in to this as a matter of urgency.

Denise Fox-Teece

We could not agree more with Denise. To make a successful case, our PC will probably need all the support it can get: please write to them if you have comments about the traffic situation on Mill Hill..

Dear Editors,

Local Network Fund

I am writing to let you know about the Local Network Fund, a programme from the Department for Education and Skills, which aims to improve outcomes for all children and young people aged 0-19 years old, or up to 25 with learning difficulties.

Grants of £250 to £7,000 are available to youth and community groups, to develop projects and activities for children and young people with limited opportunities or access to services that many young people take for granted.

I can send details of groups that have successfully received funding in the past or leaflets that explain the Fund in more detail. I would be happy to come and meet any local groups to introduce myself and discuss possible projects and eligibility.

If you would like further details please call me on 01353 860850 or email Fleur.kerrecoe@cambsacre.org.uk or visit our website at www.infcambscare.org.uk

Fleur Kerrecoe

Local Network Fund Development Officer

Dear Editors,

Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning

We all raised a grand total of £437.20p at the Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning on Friday 29th September. Thank you to all who baked or bought cakes; bought raffle tickets or donated prizes and to all who made donations and emptied their purses for such a very good cause. I could not have managed the occasion without the assistance of my willing helpers - Liz Tissier on the cake stall and Valerie and Michael Limb on the raffle. They did a great job encouraging you all to part with your money and I am very grateful.

I always enjoy the coffee morning and hope to see you all again at next year's event. I will put the date in the Crier when I know it and when we all have diaries or calendars for 2007!

With many thanks to you all for your generosity,

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

Bottisham Swimming Pool

You may have heard through the 'grapevine' that Bottisham Swimming Pool was due to be closed last summer for maintenance (tiling to the pool shell).

We were unable to secure grant funding for these works in time so remained opened with no closure at all — unfortunately, some users did not get the message in time and we have received a few very disappointed calls from would be swimmers.

It is now rumoured that we will close after Christmas.

I assure you that this is not true and that we have no plans for closure at any time in the foreseeable future.

If anyone requires any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jill Pelegrini

Dear Editors,

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

Once again it is time to remind all who consider themselves eligible for our Christmas grant that they should apply as soon as possible.

As usual, the majority of these applications will come from our pensioners, particularly those who have to manage on the state pension, but if you are in particular need, or know of anybody who may be in difficulty, but is unlikely to apply on their own behalf, the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications should be sent to me, or to any Trustee, and I stress that this assistance is available at all times, not merely at Christmas.

Pam Waters

Clerk to the Trustees

31 Tothill Rd, CB5 0JI, tel: 01638 741035

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

THERE WERE SEVEN OF THEM - not dwarfs, but our loyal members of the Parish Council. There was no Chairman, no Clerk, no ECDC rep, no CCC rep, and it was all very tidy as everyone had filled the seats nearest the top table so that one had a wonderful view of the whole proceedings. A rare treat.

Andrew Camps chaired the meeting and explained that Steve Kent-Phillips was Karen for the evening. One member unprepared for this moved into shock and said “Gosh, that’s some transformation”, which made everyone look at Steve in a new light. But they were worried about the Chairman who had been on holiday at the last meeting and was still away – “is he on holiday again?” – “no, he’s still on the same holiday.” Hmm!



The meeting quickly moved to ECDC and CCC Reports. There were none. Both representatives had said they would not be at this meeting but neither dared to say they would not be sending any reports. But who can blame them. Why say anything is there if nothing worth saying.

Initially there was some confusion about the whereabouts of the ECDC and CCC correspondence. Andrew eventually found an ECDC file and we witnessed the dangers of commenting on a document which you are seeing for the first time. It takes a moment or two to discover what it’s about, whether it’s useful, whether it’s worth reading out. And there were delays until the temporary clerk got control of the problem, and, looking over Andrew’s shoulder, said “Just, another agenda, dump”, and the meeting started moving forward again. The one outstanding document was an ACRE event which the PC thought should be attended as it intends to acquire “Quality Parish Status”. Did you know that? And Karen is going to be trained as a Quality Parish Clerk. Doesn’t that make the heads of everyone in the village just hang a little higher. Doesn’t that make everyone ever so proud and pleased no matter what street lighting they are given?

Then, what joy, the CCC correspondence file was discovered and this was very full. Fortunately Steve was on top of the situation now and got most into the dump box in double quick time – phew! At one stage Andrew picked up a paper, said “Ah, that’s the complaint we had”, and promptly put it on one side. What was in it I wondered, this was possibly the most exciting part of the evening, surely *Crier readers will want know*. Alas, it has now vanished forever.

By ten minutes past eight the meeting had reached item 7, “Resurfacing the Play Area”. The childrens’ playground is really quite expensive to maintain. The one quote for resurfacing the swings is about £4,500. Geoffrey Woollard thought this an astonishing amount of money and suggested they should buy the material and lay it themselves. He said he would be the first one there helping - once his ankle had recovered. Eric was equally keen to get out a spade, and others were swept along, became enthusiastic, and thought of asking parents to roll up their sleeves. Some were concerned about the job being done well enough but whoever did the job would

need to be inspected and approved. Andrew was a little sceptical and sounded like the man who had been doing similar tasks for years and raised some practical problems. It looked as he'd been there, and had done that – many times.

Now we came to the big one, the reason why Eric was so keen to have Geoffrey on the PC. It was the National Trust's (NT) Proposals for the Fens. Geoffrey had already registered his opposition and his aim was to alert all the villages to the full dangers of the project.. He said we would all be affected in some way by the flooding, especially our Chairman who would be "right in the middle of it". Modesty must have prevented Geoffrey from mentioning his own house. With about half the parish being bought up and flooded, Eric and Geoffrey saw little benefit to anyone and wondered if we wanted "more tourists and pestilential flies". Someone thought the Red Lion wouldn't mind more tourists but wasn't sure if it needed any more flies. Eric thought it "madness" to flood half of our 4,000 acres and to destroy something it had taken years to drain. Steve said it was unlikely to happen. Geoffrey countered by saying "that's what we thought years ago" - but events have now moved on and the NT is buying up pieces of land stretching from Burwell right through to Quy.

Fortunately there may be a chance for any interested person to see the NT at work. Another "Public Local Enquiry" about Harrison's Drove is being held at the Gardiner Hall in Burwell on Tuesday morning 28 November at 10.00am. Some years back the land containing Harrison's Drove was bought by the NT which wished to restrict access (or even close) the well-established paths. Burwell residents maintained that the Drove was a BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) and a Public Local Enquiry was held in September 2003. At this Enquiry it seems "the NT brought down a top London Barrister to make the locals look silly, but he didn't succeed." But he did succeed in persuading the Inspector to reject the BOAT claim. Afterwards it appears that a compromise was reached and a bridleway was accepted by all parties, including the CCC. If that is the case, why this new Enquiry? It is not unreasonable to speculate whether the NT is now opposing the Bridleway, whether it will bring down it's big flash London lawyer, or whether it is just a simple ratification of the informal compromise. For anyone with the interest and time there *may* be a good piece of informative entertainment on that Tuesday morning – and it's free.

Geoffrey then started on the Bridge of Reeds and its £20 million cost. The Lottery has refused a grant and Geoffrey quoted the Evening News suggestion that local industry and wealthy bigwigs should find the money as it is an integral part of NT's plan. He spoke of this with horror and members appeared to agree with him.

The upshot of all this is that a letter will be sent to all the other PCs affected containing a resolution opposing the NT scheme (see the official PC report for the full text) and also the statement that the SP PC "asserts that the Bridge of Reeds is a waste of money."

The Recreation Ground arrangements are still proceeding slowly though Steve was too nervous to say very much. I suspect he didn't want to be like Geoffrey Boycott who always, when England are 195 for 1, says something like "EE, they're

rubbish, we're whopping them, they can't play for toffee!"). After this bit of Boycott wisdom England usually lose 6 wickets for 18 runs within twenty minutes.

During Any Other Business Sandra Ginn asked about the travellers who had taken up so much time at the last meeting and had aroused such rage and fury. The meeting was puzzled by the question and wondered why Sandra had asked it. She said she was curious whether there was any news about the travellers and wondered why they weren't on the Agenda. "Ah, they've gone" was the simple answer.

With immaculate timing Eric then took out a little book, gave a few coughs, and said "I was right and everyone was wrong about the way we voted at the last meeting." He then proceeded to read a lengthy passage about the "Mode of Voting" which proved he was absolutely right and that all voting should be by a show of hands. (Some people may worry about having obtained a position through an incorrect, even illegal, procedure!) Eric turned to Geoffrey and told him that the book, *A Parish Councillor's Guide*, used to belong to Geoffrey's cousin Lorie Woollard. When Lorie retired from the PC in 1958 he had given it to Eric. There was a slight concern whether it was out of date when someone suggested the date of the book was 1910. A careful study of the little book proved that it had been published in 1950. So that's alright. Everyone was mightily relieved they will now be following the correct procedures, and all went home happy.

Alastair Everitt

Remember, remember...

The THATCH In November

Keep fireworks well away from
thatching!



Going, going, gone.....

"AUCTIONEER" ANDREW NOYES
about to close the bidding on a Brenda Wilson watercolour that was put up for auction at last month's Harvest Supper. Brenda is a regular **Crier** Cover Artist, but we don't run to colour. Her work was much admired and lead to some competitive bidding, raising £60 for St Mary's.



Swaffham Prior Village



CHRISTMAS

MARKET



Saturday, 11th November



**2.00 pm – 4.30 pm
in the Village Hall**



**Gifts ☺ Produce ☺ Tombola ☺ Cards ☺ Calendars
Raffle ☺ Children's Corner ☺ Toys
Jewellery ☺ Books ☺ Refreshments**

Admission: 50p ☺ Children under 12: free

Proceeds to St Mary's Church

THE QUIZ NIGHT

....A BELATED REPORT ON THE SEPTEMBER QUIZ NIGHT when a Swaffham Prior team again defeated the visiting 'professionals'. We must celebrate our achievements and not be shy. The formidable winning team contained Mike, Chris and Thomas Carrington, Hilary Sage, Elisabeth Everitt and Catherine Atherstone (née Everitt). It was a very jovial evening,, everyone as usual enjoyed it, we all had a lot of good laughs, and the quite remarkable food was a constant subject of discussion. The Quiz itself was as organised by Jenny Brand and Lynne Rand.

Christmas is Coming!!

Village Christmas Market *11th November 2.00-4.30 pm*

FULL DETAILS below. If you have any of the following items in GOOD condition which people will be thrilled to buy, I will be very happy to receive them should you find it easier than delivering them to those listed.

Gifts, *Jewelry, Books (Hard covered, NOT paperback please), Toys, Tombola Items.*

Kate Child (743983)

PRODUCE: Cakes, sweets, preserves, mince-pies etc etc.

Penny Walkinshaw 742542

Marcia Miller 741141

GIFTS: Anything which could be given as a present

Kate Child 743983

JEWELRY

Barbara Dennis 743939

BOOKS

In good condition, suitable for a present

Francis Reeks: 743693

Mark Lewinski

TOYS

Tricia Harrison 742850

TOMBOLA

Peter and Mary Hart 741681



Kate Child

Swaffham Bulbeck School PSA
Bonfire & Firework Party



Friday 3rd November
6pm

Vicarage Field
(behind the church)

Adults £1.75 Children £1

**Mobile catering unit will be there selling hot
food & drinks,**

e.g: burgers, hot dogs, baked potatoes etc.

RUBBISH!

Mark Lewinski takes a trip from Swaffham Prior to Burwell, and reports back....

ONE DAY IN AUGUST, cycling from Burwell to Swaffham Prior, I noticed there seemed to be a lot of litter scattered along the grass verge. You don't see it when you're in a car. I estimated there was probably something about every couple of paces, if you were to walk it – so I went back and did just that. Here's the total for just one side of one road between two villages. Multiply by hundreds of thousands of miles of rural roads to get an idea of the state of the country.

It's what the Great British public is doing to its countryside, folks:

“What is it about the British that makes it normal to throw rubbish out of car windows?”

- 303 - items of plastic packaging
- 134 - plastic bottles
- 103 - drinks cans
- 71 - paper items
- 3 - glass bottles
- 1 - watering can
- 9 - bits fallen off cars
- 10 – Macdonalds takeaway packaging
- 1 – Burger King packaging
- 2 - beer mats
- 1 - mangled metal drum
- 2 - lengths of plastic liner, rolled and taped up
- 4 - lengths of rope
- 1 - laminated Police notice – ‘Don't leave valuables in your car’
- 34 – cigarette packets
(and one cigar tin)
- 4 - industrial gloves
- 9 dead animals/birds; one big, very decomposed thing, a large badger (or a small bear?)
- 10 – polystyrene objects
- 1 – television set (yes, there are still those who can be bothered to drive halfway between two villages, stop, and dump a tv – but can't be arsed to drive the few extra miles to Newmarket recycling tip)
- 2 – bits of cloth
- 4 – lengths of wood
- 1 – England flag

Do the maths at your leisure to see how close I was to my estimate, @ one pace = 1 yard. I counted up in the 9/10 of a mile from the edge of Burwell to the Swaffham Prior sign.

This was all that was easy to see: there was obviously quite a lot more. Every few paces I would step on another plastic bottle not visible under the grass.

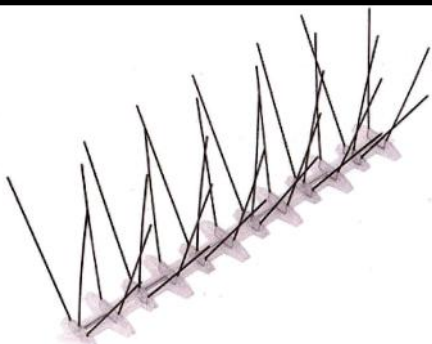
Point to ponder: The nearest Macdonalds outlet is nearly ten miles away, in Cambridge.

I used to see much more of their packaging than this on the roadside when I lived outside a village three miles from a Macdonalds in Essex.

Macdonalds has claimed that its packaging does not contribute to littering the countryside.

I've never seen much dumped junk by the roadside when travelling in Europe. I see huge amounts here. What is it about the British that makes it normal to throw rubbish out of car windows?

Mark Lewinski



So what's this mystery object, and why might it be the answer to a perennial PC problem (see last month's Crier)? Best Answer—not *necessarily* correct—published next month.

Neighbourhood Police Officer Sue Loaker will be holding a Police Surgery at:



**SWAFFHAM PRIOR HIGH STREET
(opposite school)**

on

WED 22nd November 7.30pm—8.30pm

MON 18th December 5pm-6pm

TEL: 07921 938046

Since arriving in 1959, now retired farmer John Norris has been at the forefront of a great many restoration projects; Swaffham Prior is a very different village today. 30 years on, in 1989, John started to write some memoirs, and here is the first in a series of extracts from:

John Norris Remembers

IT WAS IN EARLY APRIL 1959 that we first came to visit Swaffham Prior just thirty years ago. My first impression on crossing the then new lock gates at Upware was that we had arrive in a very depressed area of failed enterprise.

The narrow concrete road, cracked by the sinking fen, wandered through dead reeds and grasses containing the remains of many ancient bog oaks and machines.

Judging by the number of horse hay rakes there could not have been much arable farming done, at least in the past

few years. As we got nearer to the village, the scene changed somewhat, in that there were fields of carrots still to be lifted and wheat already sown. It seemed a long way from Upware to Swaffham Prior, the five miles or so going slowly along that nine foot track. There was one reasonable feature on the landscape, two dragliners were at week, one on each side of the drain, leading to the new 1957 pump.

On arriving at Anglesey House, we met Christopher Parker, who had just been to see Mrs Kitchen. She was a sub-tenant of the house, and was to be offered Baldwin Manor as alternative



Is this the resourceful station manager Mr Bettes ?

accommodation.

Mr Parker then showed us round the farm, first by going up Caddenham Lane. Mr Ambrose had been muck-carting with his horse and cart, and the ruts up the drove were deep and muddy, until we came to a place where many red bricks had been tipped up and roughly levelled.. These came from the old fountain on the High Street, which Mr Woollard had just pulled down. I heard much about this in later times from local residents, who did not approve of its removal, but who would not contribute to its repair, or so I was told!

Woollard did not have much land on the heath as I do now (1989), and as he had a flock of sheep, there was a field of kale and some mangolds had been drilled.

The farm buildings at Caddenham Farm were looking very sad. The cottage had not been lived in for many years, John Goddard being the last incumbent, and they were candidates for demolition. The barn and yards had been used to fatten cattle that year, although the yards were empty when I arrived. In the side shed was an old mangold slicer driven by a Lister engine, and another engine in a little shed at the back drove a water pump. The field opposite the farm was farmed by Mr Ambrose, who did most of his work with the horses, and Ferguson petrol tractors.

After looking at the Highland, we then drove down the Fen to Adventurers' Farm. Here too, the place was sadly neglected. The farm buildings comprised several pig-sties, a small clunch barn and a wooden floored store. There was not a hard road anywhere, just mud and ruts. The farm

The beet factory decided there was too much dirt in a truck of beet (it had piled up against a door) and sent it back.

Undeterred, Mr Bettes sent the train straight back again, but rerouted via Mildenhall: that way, they'd open the *other* door.....

house was no better, no water or electricity. Harry Day, who lived there, was looking for a better place; in fact, he left our The Mr Parker employ shortly after we took the tenancy. The previous tenant was paying a rent of 50 shillings an acre I learned later, but Mr Parker was suggesting that this farm would attract a rent of at least £4.50.

The railway line was in use, with steam trains going between Cambridge and Mildenhall twice a day, and a goods service when required. Mr Bettes was the station master. The line went up a chalk gradient on its way to Cambridge in order to pass over the Lode at Swaffham Bulbeck. The chalk for this embankment came from the cutting towards Burwell, and was carted to Swaffham Prior on a light railway in tubs pulled by horses. The track for this was afterwards cut up and used as fencing stakes for the line. The wear on the track is clearly visible on the stakes that are remaining.

The date on the few remaining sleepers is 1884, giving an idea of the age of the line. In the station yard were several sidings and a high-level dock. It was helpful when loading beet to have

“The evening train expected the gates to be open”

the truck in this dock, as all the beet had to be thrown in by hand.: it was so much easier. I never had much luck getting the truck in the dock, perhaps because the dozen eggs or rabbit were not delivered in time!

We did not use the railway much, as road transport was so much easier, but the railway did reduce the price to try and encourage us to use the service. Later on, we did load beet using our trailers and an elevator. As the beet fell into the truck in the middle opposite the doors, most of the dirt landed there also. On one occasion the factory decided there was too much dirt in the sample and rejected the truck and sent it back to Swaffham Prior for us to unload and clean. This time Mr Betts was more helpful! He suggested that the load, which was not too bad, be sent back to the factory but *routed through Mildenhall*. This would ensure that the other door was opened at the factory, and all would be well — which it was. The only other use the railway had for us was the carriage of potatoes. The double humping of these bags was a chore we all accepted, but were glad when the lorries came direct to the farm. Even then, these bags were often carried on our backs over a plank across the drain to the lorry.

Many merchants used the TK Bedford lorries built to carry six tons, with a special back axle to enable them to carry ten tons. Not what we would sanction today!

During the summer when the steam trains were running there were several fires along the line. It was always a danger near harvest time on the section towards Cambridge as the bank was covered with grasses and brambles.

During the winter of 1961, the electricity people had parked their van on the crossing down Driest Drove. They often did this as the drive was very muddy and the crossing nice and clean, being made of sleepers. The evening train expected the gates to be open, but as it was foggy the train proceeded and went through the gates and the van! Nobody was injured as the train was going quite slowly having just stopped at the station. About 1972, the same thing happened in Soham, when a very nice young man was killed. Bob Betterworth who was the Chager rep left his car on the crossing while he changed his boots to go rabbit shooting, forgot about the trains, and was run over.

John Norris

Continued next month, when demolition of the church porch leads to the discovery of a *strange message* buried in the wall, still a mystery today.

Another wonderful Swaffham Prior

VILLAGE VARIETY SHOW

How much fun and laughter can you stand?

Come along and see on

Saturday, 18th November

at 7.30 pm

*A
family
evening*

*in the
Village Hall*

*BAR FOR
ADULTS &
CHILDREN*

Singing ☺ Dancing ☺ Sketches ☺ Music ☺ Magic ☺ Lots more!

Tickets – Adults: £5.00 School children: £2.50

from Andrew Noyes: (01638) 743864

or Mark Lewinski: (01638) 744062

RAFFLE

Book early to avoid disappointment

This event is always a sell-out!

All proceeds for the upkeep of St Mary's Church

Star Studded Cast



THAT HARVEST SUPPER

DELICIOUS FOOD (those puddings!!) delightful company and a convivial atmosphere meant great fun was had by all. EIGHTY + people attended and the evening finished with a recital by a female Barber Shop group (The Hair Salon?)

. Thanks and congratulations to workers, chefs and brilliant organisers all.



Photos: Barb Mitchell

Barbara Ives

SOME READERS may wonder who *IS the artist* whose work features on the cover of this month's *Crier*. Barbara Ives lived in Swaffham Prior, at St Mary's Cottages next to the churchyard, from 1987 for very many years until she moved to Suffolk. On October 23rd she celebrated her 99th birthday.

Barbara was active in the village in many ways, particularly through her enthusiastic support for art exhibitions and musical events at St. Cyriac's. Ian de Massini's choir "Cambridge Voices" was one of her great loves, and they enjoyed her hospitality on many occasions while singing in the two churches.

She herself was a painter of talent and bravura in oils and pastels, and for many of us her vibrant drawings of the village scene – such as the one reproduced here – are a permanent pleasure.

We wish her many happy returns.



***Crier* Photographer Required**

Attractive Salary circa £0.0

Many perks, including...



FREE entry to all those village events you always meant to attend but never got round to it! With your *Crier* press badge, you will be welcomed everywhere (um, possibly...). What better opportunity to get to know everyone and sharpen up those snapping skills?

All applications welcome..

Email: editors@swaffham-crier.co.uk

Ophir once attended a series of health lectures at Burwell Village College, and every week the lecturer complained about his own health problems. So he was inspired to write the following lines:

Alternative Medicine?

I have a Hypnotherapist,
Who goes everywhere with me;
And all I give him is his keep
Plus a large retaining fee.

But what he gives me in return,
Is a certain peace of mind;
For by and large I look on him
As a very lucky find.

He has some trouble with his feet,
And a slightly curving spine,
One of his arms is not too good,
(But there's nothing wrong with mine)

His back's inclined to give him pain,
And his neck bone's out of line;
His hip joint's slightly out of place,
(But there's nothing wrong with mine).

He smokes a lot, and eats too much,
(His stomach bulges fine);
He has some water on his knee,
(But there's nothing wrong with mine)

I treat him as a Good Luck Charm,
For if ever I fall ill,
Although I haven't used him yet,
He'll be there to take my pill.

Ophir



WI Notes

OUR SCHEDULED SPEAKER was unable to come to the October meeting and we were very fortunate that one of our members, Pat Airey, agreed at short notice to talk to us about her recent travels in New Zealand. Pat had spent a month visiting both the north and south islands with her husband earlier this year and gave us a fascinating glimpse of the spectacular beauty of the landscape and the places they had visited. It was interesting to learn how much some things had changed since the time Pat had worked there. The next meeting in the Village Hall will be on November 20th when our speaker will be John Hanlon telling us about Line Dancing. Lots of audience participation required! New members are always welcome.

Pat Cook



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The Village Gardeners had their A.G.M. on October 17th and had a lively discussion on the programme for 06/07. Hopefully it will be finalised in time for the December Crier. We ended the meeting in its usual form—wine flowing and serious botanical games. At least, Janet Hall's was!

Our next meeting is on November 21st—speaker yet to be decided and of course new members are very welcome.

Margaret Joyce

FREECYCLE

I HOPE LAST MONTHS freecycle items found good homes. Please continue to look through your house/garden for things that you haven't used in years. If you have any offers or wants, please contact me on jun.thompson@tesco.net, phone on 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. As a quick reminder, everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

If you would like more information on how this scheme works, please visit the official Freecycle website for this area: groups.yahoo.com/group/cambridgefreecycle or groups.yahoo.com/group/fenlandfreecycle.

Offers	Wants	Details:
Complete Graco travel system with instructions: Car seat (no collisions) and pushchair (can be used from birth)		Charlotte, 01223 812486

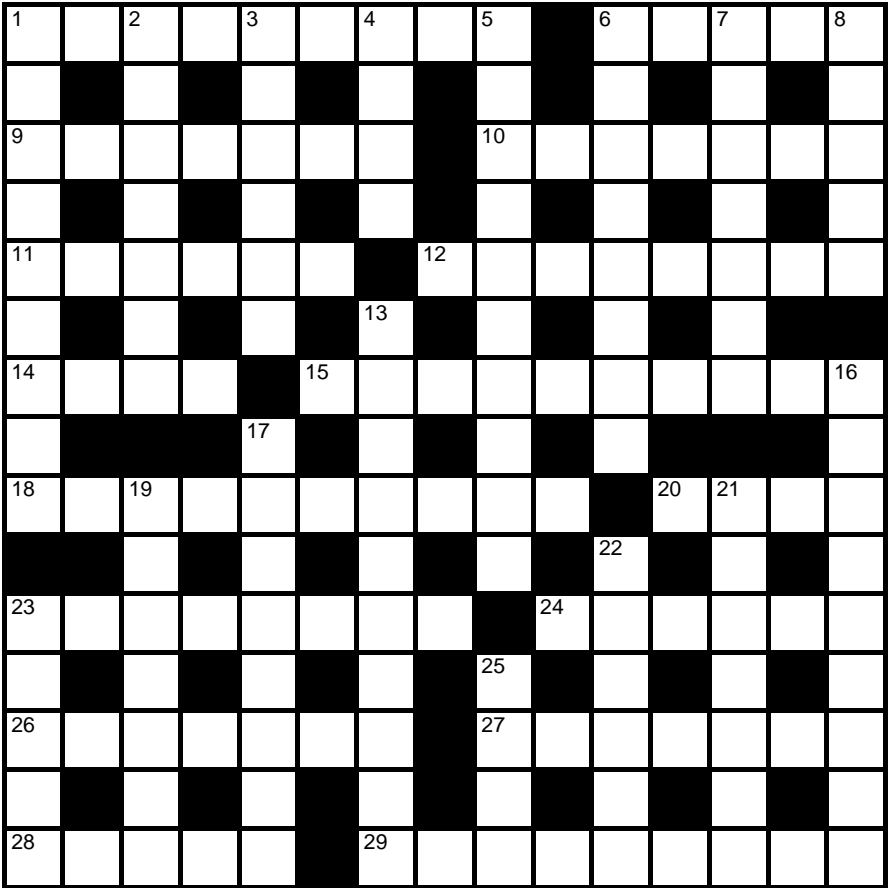
Crossword Number 37

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

NIBOR

Here is your November cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 21st November 2006. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal at the Red Lion – See Lorraine at the pub for full details.



Name:.....		
Address.....		
.....		Tel:.....

Across

- 1 Petitioner spat on the ground (9)
- 6 Half of London follows New York to find synthetic fibre (5)
- 9 Suitable attire for damp clubs or dives (3,4)
- 10 Desiring gin cocktail after first entering neighbour's vacant yard (7)
- 11 Type of salad eaten on 27, 8? (6)
- 12 Master is a knight on horseback we hear (8)
- 14 Wild goat found in spare-rib extravaganza (4)
- 15 Dealers run around and they clean up (10)
- 18 Soluble once big company can get international leader in (10)
- 20 Signal pulse (4)

- 23 Blossomed like frolicking wolf and deer (8)
- 24 Sausage for 17 (6)
- 26 Loud city speculator goes at top speed (4,3)
- 27 Good French passion may be seen on 23/6 down (7)
- 28 Stress is a heck of a problem (5)
- 29 The elders were upset but protected (9)

Down

- 1 Plunge might go before a club (5-4)
- 2 Definitely the word (7)
- 3 Sterilise new leader. English leader has true resolution (6)
- 4 A little Greek maiden? Thanks (4)
- 5 Visit outside lavatory often (10)

- 6 No midwives have dying fire at this time of the year (8)
- 7 A garland, certainly, for relaxation (7)
- 8 Dark distorted thing (5)
- 13 Crazy art zealots find hospitals (10)
- 16 S, take the lead (9)
- 17 11 or 24 may be rife (8)
- 19 Having a professional South African in charge is dull (7)
- 21 More incensed about strange earring (7)
- 22 At first we always look nervous using thin wood (6)
- 23 On this day in 6 down you might see a 27 (5)
- 25 Early man, we hear, was fit (4)

Solution to crossword no. 36

H	A	H			S	M	I	L	E		L
M	E	R	C	H	A	N	T	S		U	
	R		R		R				C	L	U
R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R	S		E	
U		E			O		E			C	A
R	N		C	U	R	L	Y		P	H	Y
A	D	D	S		R		I	S		A	I
L		S				A	G	E	N	C	I
	Y		U		S		I		E	R	E
	E		N	I	T	R	O	G	E	N	
	S		D		O		N		Z		M
A	T	T	E	M	P	T		M	I	N	U
	E		R		S			N		S	
C	R	O	W			O		A	G	R	E
	D		E	G	Y	P	T		U		I
D	A	T	A			E		S	T	I	M
	Y		R	E	I	N	S			S	K

Congratulations to Dee Noyes, the winners of last month's competition. Honourable mentions go to Caroline & James Matheson and Bob and Julie

The Prospects Trust at Snakehall Farm



THE PROSPECTS TRUST is a local charity based at Snakehall Farm between Reach and Swaffham Prior, which supports adults with Learning Disabilities through Horticulture.

The Trust has launched an exciting new range of Christmas gift ideas including Indoor Herb Planters and Narcissi & Snowdrop Terracotta Gift Pots. They will be available to order from the Farm, for delivery or pick up nearer to Christmas. If you are interested in receiving more information please call 01638 741551 or pop into the Farm Shop.



Friends of Bottisham Village College

Quiz Night

Friday 10 November

Bottisham Village College

Teams of 6-8 people (8 max)

Doors open 7.00pm

Tickets £7.50 per person

To include a fish and chip supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses

To book your team ring

Carol Lively on 01223 811895

NOT the Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

I am now away until the 23/10/06 in Tyler, Texas - be seeing Y'all !!

Karen King
Clerk to PC

Karen is getting a well-deserved holiday this month. Eds

The Friends of Bottisham Village College

CRAFT FAYRE

Sunday 26 November 2006

10.00am – 4.00pm

**Unusual stalls, refreshments, &
Santa**

ALL SOULS DAY

ALL SOULS DAY follows on in the Christian calendar immediately after All Saints Day, and falls on the 2nd November. It is the day set aside by the Church for the commemoration of the faithful departed.

Many Churches have recognised that All Souls Day provides an ideal opportunity, for those who have suffered a bereavement, to take time to honour the memory of their loved ones. The process of honouring the name of a deceased loved one has been proven to be a very helpful way of helping us cope with our bereavement, and, when done in a sensitive and reflective way, can be a very healing and strengthening experience.

We have decided to provide an All Souls Day service in the Anglesey Benefice this year, initially in a selected Church in the Benefice, and, if there seems to be a real interest in the service, we will then consider holding a similar event each year in each of our five Churches.

The service will be very simple, with a couple of suitable hymns, a reading, a poem and prayers, with time for silent reflection. During the service the names of each person who we have been asked to remember will be read out, and worshippers will be invited to light a candle in their memory.

If you would like to take part in this service please let me know by e-mail or telephone the name of your loved one that you would like to be read out.

Rev'd David Lewis Tel: 01223 812367 e-mail revdavidhlew@msn.com



Lode Chapel

I Need a Hero

I WATCHED the movie ‘Cinderella Man’ the other day. It’s based on the true story of James J. Braddock, a boxer who comes from poverty and obscurity to become a source of hope for many of those caught up in the American Depression of the 1930s. In other popular movies, based on fact or fiction, the need for a hero is a common theme – from Star Wars and Spiderman to Lord of the Rings and even Shrek.

It’s a familiar theme in music too. Some time ago Bonnie Tyler sang of her need of a hero, and more recently Bering Strait released ‘*I Could Use A Hero*’ which opened with the lines: “Who will rescue my heart? Who will save my soul? Who will give me strength? Fill my cup with hope?”. Whether our heroes are mythical or real, they can nonetheless inspire us and lift us from the humdrum of life.

There is, however, a danger associated with our obsession with heroes – the possibility of living our lives vicariously and allowing these heroes to fulfil all of our hopes and dreams for us. We can be distracted by these superhuman feats and fail to realise that we too can be heroes in the lives of our families and communities. Mother Teresa said “We can do no great things – only small things, with great love” and her life and the cumulative effect of countless acts of kindness to the needy in Calcutta demonstrate the truth of these words in action.

The 1st November is All Saints Day. At Lode Chapel we don’t normally make a big thing of such dates – but this year I’ve been challenged about heroes of the faith. Ordinary people who have been inspired by the great love of Jesus (a real hero), and who in turn have become an extraordinary inspiration to others.

Love can turn a parent into a hero in the eyes of their child, and love can transform situations of despair into places of hope. Who is there in your life at the moment who is saying “I need a hero”? Our world needs heroes, that’s for sure, but perhaps the heroism its longs for is people like you and me performing small acts of great love each and every day.

Simon Goddard

DON’T FORGET:

Our monthly mini-holiday club on the fourth Sunday of every month at Bottisham Primary School.

The next two events are at 10.30am on 26th November and 24th December (special Christmas Club). All welcome!

We welcome you to any of our services or other midweek activities.

Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30am with Sunday School. For more information please contact:

Simon Goddard on 812881 or Peter Wells on 812388

Lode Chapel, High Street, Lode, CB5 9EW.

Email: simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk

Web: www.lodechapel.org.uk

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).

WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE

You are invited to our Deanery simple service of reflection and hope for World Aids Day, by candlelight, with readings and music, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. 7.30pm, 1 December, St Cyriac's Church, High Street, Swaffham Prior.

Further details from Sue Evans, 01638 743688. Everyone is welcome. Beautiful beaded World Aids Day badges made in South Africa by mothers of HIV-positive children will be on sale at £1 each through the churches in the Deanery shortly.

They will come with a card giving details of the Deanery World Aids day service attached. If you would like to have some badges to have on sale or return contact Jo Jones 01638 743131.

PASTORAL LETTER, November 2006

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

I HAVE JUST COME BACK from the Ely Diocesan Clergy Conference, which this time was held in a Roman Catholic Seminary in northern France. On our free afternoon we were privileged to be able to travel Ieper in Belgium to visit the truly amazing and moving 'In Flanders Fields' museum. I am sure that you know that the city was entirely destroyed during the first world war when half a million servicemen died fighting over a small patch of territory in the Flanders fields.

At 8.00am on 4th August 1914, following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir apparent to the throne of the Austria-Hungarian Empire, the German army invaded Belgium, dragging Britain into war. Following heavy fighting, the Belgium army was forced to retreat towards the coast until they took their stand at Ieper, joined by the British and French armies, augmented, as the



Church of England Services

November 2006

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 5	11:00am Family Service	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Family Service
Sun 12	8:00am Holy Communion ^{BCP} 10:50am Remembrance Service	10:50am Remembrance Service	10:50am Remembrance Service
Sun 19	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 25			8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Benefice Service

months wore on, by armies from many parts of the British Empire.

The First World War highlighted above all the ascendancy of the machine gun over massed infantry attacks, as one account put it “three men and a machine gun can stop a battalion of heroes”. Consequently, the battles soon stagnated into trench warfare as the infantry sought refuge from the pitiless destruction of the machine gunners. With heavy rain bogging down artillery, and their barrages often inaccurate, infantry often had to ‘go over the top’ to face terrible fire from the opposing machine gunners, and little progress was made at the cost of countless lives. Then, on 22nd April 1915, poison gas was used for the first time by the Germans, adding a new awful dimension to the slaughter.

In June 1917 the British decided to launch the greatest of their various offensive attacks. They set off a total of 19 huge underground explosions deep under the German trenches, which caused entire German battalions to be buried alive, and the reverberations to be felt as far away as London. One charge failed to explode and

still remains underground. Unaccountably the British high command then decide not to follow up that devastating attack with an infantry attack until the following month (some say it was because the charges were set off by accident), by which time the Germans had regrouped. What followed became known as the Battle of Passendale, which cost the British 300,000 men – dead, missing or wounded.

Every evening at 8.00pm the last post is sounded under the imposing memorial arches of the Menin Gate in Ieper, on which is inscribed the names of all those soldiers who died in the Flanders fields whose bodies have never been found. Their bodies are dug up from time to time even today as excavations take place in the area, and farmers still plough up unexploded ammunition and gas shells.

The conflict is summed up very movingly in the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae:

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

The Museum is a sensitive, moving and awe-inspiring record of the impact of the battles in Flanders fields, and I feel that anyone visiting it will inevitably be moved by the awful conditions that faced the young men of our country who fought there. As I examined the description of the slaughter, I began to feel that God too was deeply moved by the carnage as he looked on at man waging war on man and the pointless loss of young vibrant lives.

I feel it is so important to continue to remember those who lost their lives in both world wars, and in many other conflicts since, on Remembrance Sunday. God would want us to, and to try and learn some lessons from the pointless nature of those conflicts. So I hope you will join me and the other clergy who will be leading services in our Benefice on November 12th to 'Remember them' and to pray for a better world.

God bless you all,

David

Dates for Your Diary November 2006

Fri	3	Bonfire Party, Vicarage Field (behind Church) S. Bulbeck, 6pm
Tue	7	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3.05-3:45, Chapel 3:50-4:10pm
Fri	10	BVC Quiz Night, 7pm, BVC
Sat	11	<i>Christmas Market 2-4.30pm. VH</i>
Sat	18	<i>VILLAGE VARIETY SHOW, VH, 7.30pm. Crier Copy Deadline</i>
Mon	20	WI Line Dancing, VH
Tue	21	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3.05-3:45, Chapel 3:50-4:10pm 8pm Village Gardeners, VH
Sun	26	BVC Craft Fayre, 10am—4pm, BVC

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Fleur Routley	743992	Tues	2:30-4:00pm	Village Hall
Messy Play	Julia Turner	742688	Thurs	2.00-2.45	Village Hall
Jamsing	Jo Pumfrey	741376	Tues (term)	9.20-12	Village Hall
Cubs	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1st Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	7:45-9:15pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Phillips	741495	3rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	

***Village
Clubs
&
Societies***